

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's time spent discussing the §112 rejection during a telephone interview with the undersigned. Applicants are amending the claims consistent with the Examiner's recommendations during that telephone conference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 9-11, 17-19, 33-35, 59-61 and 64-75 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While Applicants traverse this rejection, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants are amending independent Claims 9, 17, 33, 64, 68 and 72 to recite "wherein the first reverse bias voltage and the second reverse bias voltage are selected between zero volt and an avalanche voltage," in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation. Applicants are also amending Claims 9, 17, 33, 64, 68 and 72 to recite that wherein magnitude of the second reverse bias voltage is lower than magnitude of the first reverse bias voltage, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Applicants are agreeing to this amendment based on the Examiner's explanation and statement that these voltages are negative voltages and therefore the second reverse bias voltage has a lower magnitude (i.e. more negative voltage) than the first reverse bias voltage.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome, and it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Examination of Claims

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that the claims have not been rejected over the prior art because, there is a great deal of confusion and uncertainty as to the proper interpretation of limitations of the claims because of the §112 second paragraph rejections. As these rejections have now been overcome, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in a condition for examination over the prior art and should be examined at this time. It is also requested that the Examiner consider at this time all of the IDSs previously submitted during the prosecution of this application.

New Claims

Applicants are also adding new Claims 76-78 herewith. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are not indefinite under §112, for similar reasons as discussed with the Examiner during the telephone interview.

Applicants note that Claim 76 is not exactly the same as the pending claims but recites that the first reverse bias voltage and the second reverse bias voltage are lower than zero volt. As explained at page 11, lns. 11-18, especially lns. 14-15, of the present application, the present invention is not limited to an avalanche voltage. Accordingly, that feature is not recited in new Claim 76.

Therefore, new Claims 76-78 are clearly supported by the application as filed and are not indefinite. Hence, it is respectfully requested that these new claims be entered and examined at this time.

If any fee should be due for these new claims, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

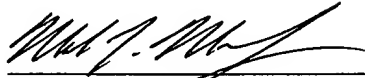
Conclusion

For at least the above-stated reasons, the claims of the present application are in an allowable condition and should be allowed.

If any fee is due for this amendment, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark J. Murphy', is written over a horizontal line.

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